

Comment on the proposed conservation of the generic names *Gnorimus* Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau & Serville, 1828 and *Osmoderma* Le Peletier de Saint-Fargeau & Serville, 1828 (Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 3349; BZN 63: 177–183)

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I would like to register my support for the proposal by Krell et al. to conserve the generally used names *Gnorimus* and *Osmoderma* for two related genera of scarab beetles of conservation importance. These names are well used outside taxonomic circles because of the large size, beauty and rarity of the beetles concerned. Instability in scientific names that are frequently used by the non-scientific public breeds disrespect for scientific nomenclature in general, and leads to increased reliance on a secondary system of vernacular nomenclature. These beetles already suffer from an assortment of vernacular names, such as ‘Noble Chafer’, ‘Variable Chafer’, ‘Hermit Beetle’, ‘Flower Hermit Beetle’, ‘Russian Leather Beetle’ and ‘Odor-of-Leather Beetle’. It would be unfortunate if these loosely applied, artificial constructs were to prove more stable than the scientific nomenclature.

Comment on the proposed conservation of the specific name of *Curculio contractus* Marsham, 1802 (currently *Ceutorhynchus contractus*; Insecta, Coleoptera)

(Case 3367; BZN 63: 251–254)

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I would like to go on record as supporting the proposal by Morris to conserve the name *Curculio contractus* Marsham (currently *Ceutorhynchus contractus*) for a widespread cabbage-feeding weevil. The synonymy of *Ceutorhynchus contractus* (Marsham) and *Ceutorhynchus pallipes* Crotch is rather questionable, and may be overturned at any time by ongoing molecular and morphological studies. At present the former name is connected to a widespread pest of cabbages, and the latter to an obscure island taxon of conservation significance. To confuse this clear separation by making *Ceutorhynchus pallipes* the valid name for the widespread taxon almost universally known as *Ceutorhynchus contractus* (Marsham) would serve no useful purpose, and the already-confused situation would have to be revisited if the tenuous synonymy between *Ceutorhynchus contractus* and *Ceutorhynchus pallipes* was overturned.